

### **DETAILED ACTION**

This is in response to RCE filed on 7/7/11 in which claims 11, 13-49 and 46-50 are pending and claims 1-10, 12 and 41-45 are cancelled. The applicant's amendments have been fully considered therefore this case is in condition for allowance. In addition the pending claims have been renumbered as 1-34, respectively.

#### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record fail to anticipate or render obvious the following recited features: using at least one of a plurality of reference pictures listed the reference buffer, and adapted to dynamically reorder a list of references stored in the reference buffer so that reference pictures having smaller distortion relative to the current picture are listed with higher priority in the list of active references as recited claim 47. Selecting the first reference listed in a reference list to be used as the only reference to be used to encode the pixel region of the current picture as recited in claims 1, 12 and 41. Removing at least one of the listed references from the list of active references based upon a comparison of each of the removed references to the current picture as recited in claim 19. Reordering the listed references so that reference pictures having smaller distortion relative to the current picture are listed with higher priority in the list of active references as recited in claim 27. Removing one or more pictures from the reference list to create a new reference list; and then performing a second coding step of re-coding the current picture using only the pictures listed in the new reference list as recited in claim 28. Performing motion estimation coding of a current picture using each of a plurality of permutations of

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available references and selecting the permutation of available references that minimizes a predetermined condition as recited in claim 37.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to EMMANUEL BAYARD whose telephone number is (571)272-3016. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (7:Am-4:30PM) Alternate Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chieh Fan can be reached on 571 272 3042. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

7/14/11

Emmanuel Bayard  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2611

/Emmanuel Bayard/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2611